Liberalisation of Visa rules for foreign students

† *251. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the fact that foreign students are extremely impressed by the world class education system in India, Government have decided to liberalise the Visa rules for the foreign students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said decision would be implemented alongwith the number of foreign students likely to be benefited as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRI PRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The changes that have been effected in the Student Visa regime, *inter alia,* include removal of restriction on the number of the courses a foreign student may undertake, counting the periodicity of the visa with respect to duration from the new course or five years whichever is less, flexibility to change the course/Institution, enhancing the period of 'Provisional Student Visa' to six months to enable the foreign students to get admission in Indian Institutions, allowing the foreign student to complete the course even if he/she fails as long as the Institution allows him/her to carry on the studies, and delegation of powers to the State Governments/UT administration and FRROs to grant extension of stay to foreign students.

(c) Necessary instructions have been issued on 21.6.2005 to all Indian Missions/Posts abroad and State Governments to bring in force the new Student Visa regime with immediate effect. This would cover all foreign students other than those from Pakistan, who are desirous to come to India for studies or undergoing studies in India at present.

Infiltration attempts on LoC

*252. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.